

Mansfield Public Schools

Board of Education Update

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Superintendent of Schools

Issue #19

January 2010

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*	
PK	32	6/0	30	3/3	31	1/1			93
K	31	0/0	30	5/3	54	2/1			115
1	37	3/2	44	1/0	34	1/0			115
2	35	1/0	43	3/1	53	0/1			131
3	32	0/0	50	3/3	50	1/1			132
4	34	1/1	49	1/0	50	1/0	1		134
PK-4									720
5							136	2/1	136
6							148	3/1	148
7							143	2/2	143
8							141	2/0	141
# Boys	111		127		146		292		676
# Girls	90		119		126		277		612
Total	201	11/3	246	16/10	272	6/4	569	9/4	1288

*Entries/Withdrawals

- Home-school year to date total: 7 families with 11 students.

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant Children*	5	3	1	2	11
ELL**	2	3	3	7	15

*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

**English Language Learners

Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal – March 2009

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 133	113/85.0%	86/72.2%	98/73.7%	-----
4 – 124	100/83.3%	92/74.2%	91/75.8%	-----
5 – 137	97/71.3%	99/72.3%	101/73.7%	110/80.3%
6 – 141	113/80.1%	109/77.9%	120/85.7%	-----
7 – 136	105/78.4%	110/80.9%	116/87.2%	-----
8 – 160	131/81.9%	139/86.9%	138/86.8%	142/88.8%

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2009-2010 grade)

Gr. 4 – 47/35.3%	Gr. 7 – 44/31.2%
Gr. 5 – 49/39.5%	Gr. 8 – 40/29.2%
Gr. 6 – 63/46.0%	Gr. 9 – 42/26.0%

Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

Sept., 2008-Jan., 2009		Sept., 2009-Jan., 2010	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals*
51,789	73,387	44,140	72,669

- * May be due to increase in student absence year to date.
- Presented Proposed 2010-2011 Budget of \$20,588,160 a decrease of .04 to MBOE.

Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	0
Resignations	0	0
Requests for Leave	0	0
New Hires	0	3
Reduction in Force	0	0

- Provided information regarding the inclusion of Mansfield Community Center custodians into the bargaining unit.
- Conducted District AYP meeting.

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Completed & submitted district Memorandum of Understanding regarding Race To The Top.
- Conducted three administrative council meetings.
- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year two implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Implemented a plan for in-class preschool music.
- Implemented district review and use of CBAS (CT Benchmark Assessment System) for grades 3-8 in Math & Reading.
- Initiated MyRTI assessment.
- Facilitated council meetings with consultants hired to review art, music, and social studies curriculum.

Policies

- Continued to implement MBOE Policies reflecting recent changes in legislature drafted by Shipman & Goodwin.

Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Attended MMS Fuel Conversion weekly meetings regarding project implementation.
- Participated in Building Committee meeting to develop information on Four Schools Renovation Project.
- Conducted tours of Goodwin and MMS prior to MBOE meetings.
- Presented information on Four Schools Renovation Project to joint meeting of Town Council, MBOE, & Building Committee.

Programs

Study Island Through December 26, 2009							
Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
35,194	82.9	15,752	69.5	16,878	87.0	14,636	77.3

**Number of questions attempted on grade level*

Security

- Continued the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials. Scenario: Potential Intruder

Energy

- Implemented school building energy committees.
- Implemented guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Reduced hall lighting in hallways in all 4 schools and some classrooms at MMS.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.

Communication

- Directed dissemination of H1N1 vaccination clinics information via school "kid-mail."
- Distributed flier with dates of School Building Committee presentations and expanded web-site information via "kid-mail".
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Facilitated district Technology Committee meeting via video conference.
- Held monthly meeting with Town Manager.
- Facilitated Professional Development Committee meeting.
- Attended Region 19 Special Education Directors and Superintendents meeting.
- Participated in New Board Member Orientation.
- Conducted Facilities Management monthly meeting.
- Attended quarterly IT Management Meeting.
- Participated in MBOE Roles & Responsibilities Workshop.

Professional Development

- Supported grades 2 – 5 Holistic Writing Scoring sessions.
- Supported grades K-4 Math Professional Development.

Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued spread sheet submission of language arts assessments.
- Planned conversion to Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro/EASTCONN RTI software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Initiated implementation of MyRTI software program.
- Continued implementation of AlertNow software program for transportation issues.

Other

- Requested extension proposal from Durham School Services for bus transportation.
- Attended MAC (Mansfield Advocates for Children) meeting.
- Attended EASTCONN SRBI Council meeting.
- Attended SERC Race to the Top (RTTT) meeting.
- Attended URSA and Tri-Town Superintendents' meetings.
- Attended RESC Budgeting & Building Community Support workshop.
- Attended ESATCONN Closing Schools: Turning a Perceived Negative into Positive Community Support.
- Attended *What Do Interventions Look Like in a SRBIClass?*
- Attended CAPSS Special Education Requirements Task Force.
- Attended CAPSS Legislative, Technology, and Assessment and Accountability Committee meetings.
- Attended CAS School Improvement Planning Workshop.
- Attended Investigation of Student Misconduct workshop at Shipman & Goodwin.
- Attended District Test Coordinators Annual Workshop.
- Attended CAPSS Certification Requirements meeting.
- Attended SDE Empowering Young Women's Forum.
- Attended UCONN Schools as Clinics meeting.
- Attended EASTCONN *Commercial Advertising in Schools?* workshop.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

Goodwin School

- Fourth graders at Goodwin joined the fourth grade classes of Vinton and Southeast for a great morning of ice skating. This annual event is one of our transition kick-offs that give students a chance to meet their future Mansfield Middle School classmates. It's always exciting to watch student confidence grow with each spin around the rink. Children who so tentatively hang on to the railings of the rink their first time around are soon zipping around the ice!
- The disaster in Haiti has been on the minds of students and staff at Goodwin. Students have been collecting coins and proceeds from staff dress down days are also being added to this collection. Next week, Goodwin students will participate in a jump rope event with pledges going toward Haitian relief efforts. Check out the Goodwin webpage to see a commercial fourth graders made to advertise this jump roping challenge!
- Goodwin will celebrate its first Tropical Reading Day on February 12. Several instructional assistants have taken on the challenge of creating tropical environments around the building in preparation for this fun filled day. The highlight of the day will be a school-wide sustained reading time when everyone can dress in their shorts, tee shirts, sunglasses, hats, and other tropical attire. Healthy tropical snacks and a variety of activities are being developed by Goodwin teachers to make this a truly memorable way to kick off winter vacation!

Southeast School

- Emma Ann Powers was a local 4th grade winner for this year's fire prevention poster contest. Her poster will be sent forward to be judged as a possible county winner. If her poster is chosen, she will receive a \$200 savings bond at a special awards luncheon and her poster will be published on next year's calendar. Fran Raiola, Assistant Chief / Deputy Fire Marshal for the Town of Mansfield, presented Emma with a certificate and congratulated her on her award.
- Six of our 4th graders (Caleb Blanchard, Andrew Christenson, Keith Dixon, Brooke Hawthorne, Leah Newmyer and Ryan Sweeney) were selected to attend this year's Connecticut Association of School's Elementary Student Leadership Conference at Assnuntuck Community College, which was held on January 13th. The purpose of this conference is to provide students with an opportunity to develop skills needed to be effective leaders. Some of the highlights of the day included: meeting new friends from around the state; developing the courage to speak in front of a group; discovering new ways to be a positive leader; and interacting with instructors from across many disciplines and state/local schools. Sue Irvine, Betsy Parker and Diane Hutton presented a series of workshops on communication at this year's conference.

Vinton School

- On January 20, 2010, Vinton held its 30th annual Physical Education Ice Skating field trip. The Mansfield 4th graders from all 3 elementary schools met at the UCONN ice rink for a morning of skating fun. Many parents and staff joined us to either watch or skate. Besides learning to ice skate, another purpose of this trip was to introduce our 4th graders to their future MMS 5th grade classmates. Many kids made new friends. The PE staff would like to extend an invitation to our BOE to attend one of our trips. Our fourth grade ice skating trip is usually scheduled for mid January.
- The Library has been a very busy place at Vinton during the last few months with the Nutmeg Award Nominee books, Geno's Reading Team and the Breakfast & Books program. The Nutmeg Award has been a great tool for encouraging 4th graders to read fiction outside their usual scope. Breakfast & Books has been fun and, judging from the feedback received, beneficial to parents and students alike. Geno's Reading Team was a success at Vinton for the 85 active participants who increased or maintained their reading 'time'!

Vinton School continued

- The fabulous Vinton School PTA sponsored two wonderful assemblies on January 11th. Both performances were presented by Carol Glynn who, to say the least, is energetic, engaging, and entertaining. The Kindergarten - Grade 2 assembly was entitled "Fractured and Funky Tales" which portrayed unforgettable characters emphasizing the importance of details in writing and storytelling. The Grades 3 & 4 show, entitled "Connecticut Legends and Lore," brought to life our Connecticut unit.

Mansfield Middle School

- Over 100 MMS 5th and 6th graders are participating in a science enrichment program with students from other area middle schools. 5th graders are working with students from G. H. Robertson Intermediate School in Coventry, and 6th graders are working with students from Windham Middle School. Students are learning about biodiversity, invasive species and vernal pools. When the weather gets warmer, they will do field work on Joshua Trust lands and here at school. Mr. Perkins, our math/science enrichment teacher, has coordinated this program with EastConn personnel and with our science teachers.
- Even after the December concerts, the MMS music teachers have had a busy month. Mr. Johnson led Chamber Choir members and Mr. Carbonneau brought the Chamber Strings to participate in the Jubilee Jamboree on Saturday, December 19th, and Tuesday, December 23rd, at the Eastbrook Mall. This year the voting for one's favorite group served as a means of gathering food for the Covenant Food Pantry. Listeners voted by contributing a nonperishable food item. The MMS Chamber Choir prevailed in the voting, and the choral program received a \$250 prize contributed by the Mall merchants.
- The MMS Student Council combined entrepreneurship with altruism at the Jubilee Jamboree to make it easier for shoppers to cast their votes. Members set up a table next to the Jamboree and sold nonperishable food items to shoppers for a dollar per item. The Student Council contributed the \$160 they raised to Heifer International for the purchase of ducks, pigs, and chickens for needy families in developing countries.
- On Sunday evening, January 10, MMS hosted the first concert on the Gettysburg College Jazz Ensemble's *Northern Lights* winter tour. Mr. John Hart, the MMS band director, is a Gettysburg alumnus and former ensemble member. He organized the concert, hosted a dinner in the cafeteria, and arranged for band members to stay with MMS families. An audience of students, parents and staff members enjoyed an evening of hot jazz on a freezing evening. It was particularly interesting to hear our music students in the corridor after the concert asking the college students questions about their playing technique.
- Christopher Murphy, a former MMS student now attending Mitchell College, visited our 5th graders during reading classes this month. Chris shared successful strategies he uses in everyday life as a blind student. Students were able to connect his informative presentation to A/A (Respect for Others), Science (discrimination of sounds – how he uses sound discrimination to "see"), and Reading (expository text in our anthology – "Mom's Best Friend" – Dog Guides).
- Students in 7th grade science classes are working in unusual teams to design and operate eight robots to complete tasks, much as a NASA team would develop a lunar rover. Across the six science classes, there are seven teams, each of which includes a few members of each class. (Think of 3 shifts of workers at Pratt & Whitney, all working on the same jet engine. Clear communication about progress made during each class period is critical to each team's success. Students communicate with each other by posting information about their progress on-line on the MMS private-label Wikispace.

Upcoming Events in February:

Please join us at any/all of these events

GW	SE	VN
Gr. 3&4 Music Concert 2/9/10 1:15pm	PTO Meeting 2/1/10 7:00pm	PTA Movie Night 2/5/10 6:00pm
Gr. 3&4 Music Concert 2/11/10 7:00pm	Gr. 2 Science Day 2/5/10	Celebrate Vinton Assembly 2/25/10 10:15am
PTO Meeting 2/24/10 6:30pm	School-wide Assembly 2/26/10 11:15am	PTA Ice Skating – UCONN rink 2/28/10 2:45pm
	Movie Night 2/26/10 6:00pm	
MMS		
MMSA Meeting 2/2/10 7:00pm	MMS Read In 2/12/10 8:15am – 12:00pm	Pep Rally 2/12/10 1:30pm
CMEA Eastern Region Music Festival 2/26-27/10		
District		
MBOE Meeting - Vinton 2/4/10 – 7:00pm- Bldg. Tour 7:30pm-Meeting	MBOE Meeting - Southeast 2/11/10 – 7:00pm-Bldg. Tour 7:30-Meeting	School Vacation 2/15-19/10
School Building Committee 2/24/10 5:00pm		